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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,992	07/07/2003	Joseph Yudovsky	AMAT/4191.C1/CPI/WCVD/PJS	8160
44257	7590	03/21/2007		
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP 3040 POST OAK BOULEVARD, SUITE 1500 HOUSTON, TX 77056			EXAMINER MACARTHUR, SYLVIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1763	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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10/614992
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EXAMINER

S. R. MacArthur

ART UNIT

PAPER

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Commissioner for Patents

The reply brief filed 1/15/2007 is noted. The arguments have been considered, but are unpersuasive. Namely, applicant argues that the prior art of Cheng et al (EP 0553691) fails to teach the support means 70 (second edge ring) is located near the edge of the wafer and does not provide vertical or horizontal structural interaction or function with the edge of the wafer. The examiner disagrees and notes that the support means 70 is "near" the edge of the wafer, applicant does not require that the edge ring abut the wafer. Fig. 2 illustrates that the first edge ring 50 and the second edge ring 70 are in mating engagement with each other via tapered pin 72. Likewise, applicant argues that the prior art of Koai et al (US 6,159,299) fails to teach that the second edge ring 280 (comprising outer portion 284) and the first edge ring 200 are engaged with one another or have a mating engagement, however, in the same sentence (continuing from page 3) applicant notes that the first and second edge rings are fastened together. Such fastening with the tapered pin 271 (as illustrated to be tapered in Fig. and discussed as a bolt. In order for the mating to occur the recess of 280 is tapered to accommodate the pin 271. Thus, the rejections are maintained.

March 12, 2007

Sylvia R MacArthur
Sylvia R MacArthur
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1763